



# What's Happening at Strive May 2018



**Notes from the CEO:  
Submitted by: Sharon Jacksi**

## April 2018 National Autism Awareness Month



Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity achieve the highest possible quality of life. For over 50 years work has been conducted in in communities (both large and small) to ensure that actions, services and programming, support all individuals living with autism



- Ariel Benham, Relief
- Erin Case, DSP
- Elizabeth Dixon
- Callie Newby, DSP
- Jamee Hansen, HH Monitor
- Candice Hower, DSP
- Wes Isley, DSP
- Jennifer Needles, RN
- Angelina Puliafico, DSP
- Ryan Sellers, DSP/CNA
- Sarah Unruh, HH Monitor
- Brittany Wagner, DSP
- Jennifer Williams, DSP/CNA

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate, and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.



There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention along with access to appropriate services can reduce symptoms and increase skills and abilities. The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is applied based on an analysis of all behaviors and their severity.



So, what has Strive done to assist this specialized population and their families facing the challenges of autism? In 2012 Strive developed the Audyssey Clinic. This highly-trained multi-disciplinary team, which is comprised of a clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, advanced practice registered nurse and education specialist, conduct quality diagnostic assessments, then work with individuals and families to access the services available that will best support development, growth, capacity, opportunity, and quality of life. As the only source for complete autism diagnosis in Western Colorado, Strive's Audyssey Clinic has established itself as a critical link in our regional health care delivery system. Since its inception the Audyssey Clinic has evaluated more than 200 children and, although not supported by Medicaid, continues to provide these



**Departmental Updates:**

**Vocational/Residential**

**Submitted By: Valita Speedie**

**Botanical Gardens** - is proud to announce that one of STRiVE's employees of the month is our very own Nancy Franco!!! Thank you Nancy for all that you do! This recognition is certainly well deserved.

- Our three wheeled Trikes are back out and ready to roll. Sign a waiver, provide your ID and take one for a stroll down the riverfront trail or on botanical grounds. These trikes were a GENEROUS donation from Orchard Mesa Veterinary Clinic. Thanks again **Nancy Hugenberg!**
- Another one of our individuals who attends program at Botanical Gardens has independently obtained community employment! Congratulations to Earl Crownhart!
- Last month Jonquils this month **tulips!** Yes they have arrived and have never looked more beautiful!
- In addition to tending the grounds and cleaning up from winter, the Botanical crew has been busy creating one of a kind items to sell in the giftshop. A new twist to a wreath with a pinch of Spring!....and who doesn't need a keychain? Also the tic tac rock games have been a huge hit!



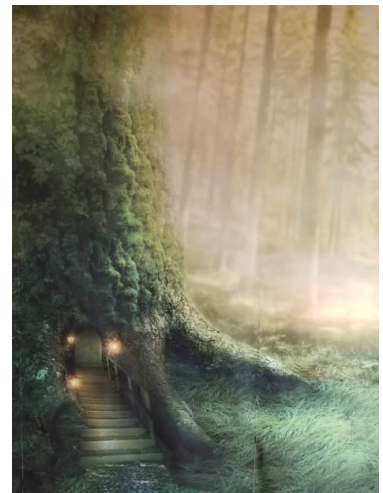
- Last, but certainly not least, following a lot of research and licensing through USDA the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens will soon be farming our own butterflies! The purchase of butterfly larva from Florida may soon be coming to an end! We'll keep you all posted!

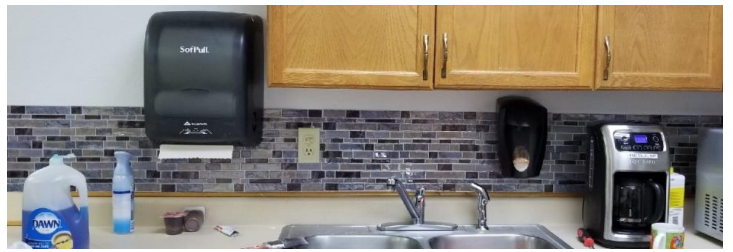
**Wellness** - We are just a couple of days out of having the new sensory rooms finished, providing our individuals with another place that they can relax.



← In one room the Lost In Space mural covers one wall with a cardboard space ship and other comfy seating

A Secret Garden mural creates a serene space for anyone just wanting to chill out in the other room →





**Active Wellness** - Painting is almost complete and a new back splash has been added to the kitchen for interest and to provide an easier surface to clean.

**Labor Solutions** - We have more shredding than we know what to do with! The good news is that we have a couple of new individuals starting in May. That should help with our workload.

**Woodshop** - This program has been busy at work building beautiful pieces. In the past month they completed 5 sets of corn hole boards in addition to custom designing and making accent tables and outdoor benches. They have also been working on refurbishing furniture for Community customers!

**Creative Creations** - Our artisans continue to make beautiful wall art and seasonal wreaths. Please look for these items and more at Uniquely Yours. This group continues to Create new designs and sayings on their signs as well as taking special orders.

**Mobile Crew** - With winter gone and spring here this group is in full swing. They continue to provide quality service to their customers and are expanding to some landscaping on an as needed basis.

**Healthy Body Healthy Mind** - has adopted a garden at Botanical! This past month they chose plants and prepped the ground for planting.

Also, participants in our archery class are improving on their Archery skills and some are now hitting bulls eyes and all continue to work at refining their abilities.

**Coffee Klatch:** This group has made many new recipes for their cooking program and continue to experiment with gluten free and sugar free ingredients.

**Performing Arts** - has spent the month practicing expressions and their roles on the stage for their upcoming play. They continue to dance, sing, and enjoy socializing with each other.

**Milestones 2 and Milestones** - have been very crafty, we have made bird feeders ,and then hung them out and around, the birds have enjoyed it tremendously. Time to make more! We also painted clay pots, planted veggies in the clay pots after they dried a couple days. Then we got busy and made some jewelry. We made necklaces and bracelets with our names on them. We also made Easter Bunnies as well as Easter eggs. We have enjoyed the outdoors and have danced and clapped with music Therapy. Those who participate really enjoy the Mindful movements with Walter! They have enjoyed bubble time as well.

**Retirement** - has been crafting as well, they have painted pinecone flowers. They have also made the bird feeders, and jewelry. We have made Easter bunnies from paper plates and Easter eggs. We have really enjoyed and look forward to Mindful Movements with Walter. We have enjoyed outside time, music therapy, clapping and swaying to the music . We have painting clay pots as well as planting seeds in the pots once they dried.





**Sweet Beginnings** - has been making "I" guy coasters, along with Colorado coasters, and have made comfort bags. Come and get yours! We are making throw pillows, and soon we will be making "I" guy pillows. They are working on knitting and sewing. They have made can cozies...check them out for Country Jam! We also have all of your neck chiller needs met....come see the variety. Get yours today before they are all gone! We are still making the best hand cream ever. Our supervisor swears by it and it is the only one she uses.

**Sweet Success** - is cooking up a storm, we are making lunches and selling them at 950 every Wednesday after payday. We did great this last Wednesday, **thank you all!!** We have been cooking like crazy. We are working on all sorts of stuff. Drop by and order something delish!!

**Residential** - Although the staffing shortage has impacted us all, there has been incredible support from all departments in ensuring staffing ratios are maintained and services continue.

- Presentations have been conducted at local colleges and hopefully these will result in interested applicants.
- There appears to have been a glitch in our ADP application process which delayed applications. This has been addressed and ADP is feeling confident that we will again start receiving applicant information.
- The Residential Department has been very busy interviewing potential DSP applicants and we should have a strong DSP class starting the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.
- The Residential Department has been authorized to hire housekeepers to help take a bit of the load off of staff.
- Another three individuals moved into Host Homes during the month of April! We are experiencing incredible success with those individuals who are now living in the less restrictive environment of a host home.

### **Public Relations & Development...**

***Submitted By: Doug Sorter***

#### **Maintenance**

- Repairs to 508 are complete
- Botanical Gardens is in good shape with the new office
- Working with the city to repair greenhouse area outside

#### **PR/Marketing**

- We are really making headway as an agency in this area there are more media agencies coming to us to assist than ever before.
- Ads to be coming out soon on our capital campaign
- TV and Radio both have decided to do large campaigns for us at no charge

#### **Events**

- Tulips and Juleps was successful with lots of great feedback
- JUCO picnic is just around the corner May 24<sup>th</sup>
- First concert June 1<sup>st</sup> Stray Grass
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign event at Uniquely Yours 4:30pm to 6:30pm

## **Capital Campaign**

- Received another \$25,000 from the Western Colorado Community Foundation
- Still several grants out waiting on a response
- Several tours set up for different funders like Daniels Fund and Colorado Health Foundation

## **Accounting Services ...**

### ***Submitted by: Chris Bergquist***

- Beginning work on FY 19 budget. Aim to have it complete middle of June.
- Have begun implementation of new payroll/HR system
- Completed training on new FASB standards for this year and will implement for this year's financial audit

## **Human Resources**

### ***Submitted by: Andrea Podgorny***

- HR has been busy recruiting new DSPs to work in our homes. Our May CORE started on May 14<sup>th</sup> with 12 new employees, mostly DSPs.
- We are also busy with implementing a new payroll program, which will be rolled out in June, through Paylocity.

## **Behavior**

### ***Submitted by: Christina Cruz***

The Behavior Department would like to encourage you to take time to enjoy the nice weather. Spring is here and summer is on the way. Here is a list of 20 fun ideas for this spring and summer. These items may be done with you, your family and or the individuals we support at Strive.

- 1) **Grow something you can eat.** Pick out a fruit or vegetable that you and can plant from seed and nurture. Try tomatoes, beets, or any kind of beans. Ask a local gardening expert if you aren't sure what will grow.
- 2) **Go to a baseball game.** The beginning of Major League Baseball season is one of the annual markers that warm weather is just around the corner. If you don't want to shell out for the pricey pro tickets, look into local minor league, college, or even high school games.
- 3) **Sleep outside.** This is one of the great thrills of childhood. Oh, don't be a stick in the mud — join in! Pitch a tent t in the backyard, get out the sleeping bags and flashlights, and have a ball.
- 4) **Pick flowers.** We aren't suggesting you violate any laws or annoy any neighbors. A picked flower here and there won't destroy any prized landscaping. Walk through your neighborhood or a local park and see how many shapes and colors of flowers you can collect. Don't forget to stop and smell them, of course.
- 5) **Make flower arrangements.** Compose the perfect bouquet.

- 6) **Make flower crafts.** Drying or pressing the beautiful blooms you find opens up a world of elegant crafts you can make together. Make cards, candles, soaps, and more.
- 7) **Take an evening stroll.** Listen to the cicadas. Savor the light of dusk. Wave to the neighbors. Enjoy the little things.
- 8) **Tie-dye T-shirts.** Celebrate the colors of the season with this timeless craft. Older grandkids will love making a cool new T-shirt of their own design.
- 9) **Dig for worms.** Remember the amazing, and sometimes startling, discoveries under a stone in spring? Who knows what you'll find lurking below the surface of your yard. Get your hands dirty together and see what you unearth.
- 10) **Go fishing.** With the worms you dig up in your yard go on a fishing trip.
- 11) **Make a birdfeeder.** Go to your backyard and spot blue jays, cardinals, and other feathered friends. Bring the birds to your backyard with this fun craft.
- 12) **Go to a farmer's market.** Take advantage of the comfortable morning temperatures and see what local farmers are offering. The markets provide countless opportunities to try new vegetables.
- 13) **Make your own stained glass.** Your local crafts store is full of all kinds of fun projects that you can hang in windows for a dazzling effect. Take advantage of all that wonderful natural light.
- 14) **Make pasta primavera.** This simple dish is the perfect recipe to showcase the tastes of the season. Pick out a selection of your favorite vegetables, sauté them in olive oil and seasoning and pair with your favorite pasta.
- 15) **Get dirty in the yard.** Mow the grass. Pull weeds. Till your flower beds. Replant. Cut back. Find the fun in getting sweaty. This is a great stress reliever.
- 16) **Make a fruity dessert.** Skip the heavy desserts and opt for something fresh. Make a crisp, crumble, or cobbler, or try a new fruit dessert recipes. Or pair fresh fruit with whipped cream, ice cream, or yogurt. Try caramelizing fruits on a clean grill — it really brings out the natural sweetness!
- 17) **Hang prisms in windows to make rainbows**
- 18) **Play in the rain.** We spend so much time running to get out of the rain that we forget how nice a warm shower can feel as it soaks you to the bone. Put on your swimsuits and get out in the yard
- 19) **Eat outside.** You can do this by yourself, with friend and/or family.
- 20) **Lay under the stars.** The great thing about living in Western Colorado is the clear skies. Day or nights...take time to enjoy the beauty up above.

### **Early Intervention...**

***Submitted by: Nancy Ketchum***

#### **Early Intervention**

- EI recently went through training with A Shared Vision. The training helped our team identify children who could have potential vision problems, how it affects development and some basic strategies for helping these children.
- EI is currently looking to hire another Service Coordinator to replace Francesca who will be leaving our team in June to move to Eastern Colorado.

#### **EI Demographic stats for January, February and March 2018**

219 children were or are currently being served during the months of January - March including Child Find.

150 were eligible and/or have or had IFSP's

49 were categorically eligible

35 children left program

### **Program Operations...**

***Submitted by: Sarah Bonnell***

#### **CES Services Changes**

Since 2015, there have been significant changes to Health First Colorado and Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program benefits which expand the service options for eligible members ages birth up to 21. In the spring of 2015, Pediatric Personal Care was added as a Health First Colorado benefit. In the fall of 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directed the Department to provide Pediatric Behavioral Therapies under EPSDT Program. In the Spring of 2016, CMS directed the Department to provide Vision therapies under the EPSDT program.

The Children's Extensive Support (CES) waiver currently has behavioral service, personal care and vision therapy as benefits. Members enrolled into the CES waiver are required to access medically necessary services through Health First Colorado or EPSDT prior to accessing those benefits through the waiver in the event there is overlap. With the addition of these benefits to Health First Colorado or EPSDT the member's needs are met therefore these benefits will be removed from the CES waiver. This means that the benefits will remain available to CES waiver participants and the participants will be able to access additional CES waiver supports that were previously unavailable due to meeting the annual service plan limit.

With the availability of Personal care, Pediatric Behavioral Services, and Vision therapies under Health First Colorado state plan benefits, personal care, behavioral services and vision services will be removed from the CES waiver. The Department will amend the CES waiver to remove these services from the CES waiver. The Department will provide public notification of the intent to amend in the Spring of 2018.

Currently we are working with our families to assure that they are working with a provider that is able to bill through their insurance. If their provider has not been set up with the state to allow for billing, we are trying to assist in getting them enrolled. We have 10 children that will be impacted with behavioral services and all have their services secured, with the exception of two.

<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
1. On waitlist for Pediatric Home Health	
2. Behavior Services Inc.	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine
3. Not getting behavioral services, because the available providers are not able to meet with the family in their limited late night schedule	
4. Behavior Services Inc.	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine
5. Pediatric Home Health	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine
6. Pediatric Home Health	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine
7. Behavior Services Inc.	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine
8. No behavior services currently	
9. Behavior Services Inc.	being billed through Medicaid
10. Behavior Services Inc.	billing through Medicaid and all is going through fine



<b>MAY ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
<b>1</b>	Ashley Bailey, Daniel Craig, Atheena Parmenter, Macharnie Skalecki
<b>2-4</b>	Amanda Frederick, Kiana Ham, Katrina Kem, Greg Osborn, Laura Russell, Valita Speedie, James Wright
<b>8</b>	Amie LaChappelle, Duane Thomas
<b>14</b>	Steve Morris
<b>17</b>	Darla Green
<b>20</b>	Sue Thorndill
<b>23</b>	Nikki Benning
<b>31</b>	Lisa Sarnac





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			Nikki Benning			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					Amanda Gregg	Amanda Frederick, Sara James, Paul Owen
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Rosemary Archeletta, Hattie Motter-Shore	Atheena Parmenter	Katherine Riddle		Dan Lawrie, Barbara Metsker	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sharon Jacksi, Marcharnie Skalecki		Michele Thistle			Ariel Cisneros, Melody McClagherty	Kayla Purdy, Aleta Yeager
27	28	29	30	31		
	Lisa Sarnac	Darla Green	Angelica Buniger	Jon Ericson		